[Translation]

Bombay-Agra N.H.

3924. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan for converting Bombay-Agra National Highway into Express Highway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). The proposal for constructing expressways in the country is only at the conceptual stage. A network plan was prepared in the year 1995. As per that plan, there is no proposal for constructing an expressway to Agra-Bombay (except via Jaipur) or converting the existing National Highway No. 3 into an expressway.

Water Supply to Delhi

3925. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Worsening water problem of Delhi;

(b) if so, the arrangements made by the Government to provide additional water to Delhi from national resources;

(c) the total quantum of water Delhi is receiving from outside at present; and

(d) the additional quantum of water proposed to be made available to Delhi from the national water resources (rivers)?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Sufficient raw water is being made available to Delhi for its Water Treatment Plants at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Delhi is receiving water from Bhakra System and Yamuna river as per its shares in surplus Ravi-Beas waters and Yamuna waters, in addition to Ramganga waters through Upper Ganga Canal. Total quantum of surface water received by Delhi from these sources is 2435 Million Litres per Day (535 Million Gallons per Day).

(d) Delhi will receive additional water from proposed Renuka and Kishau Dams as per Yamuna Waters Agreement of 12.5.1994. Abourt 300 Cusec of water is proposed to be made available to Delhi from Tehri Dam also after completion.

[English]

Expenditure on Missions Abroad

3926. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure, broken up into personnel related and others, incurred on Indian Embassies, High Commissions, Missions, Consulates and other offices abroad under the Ministry during 1993-94 to 1995-96;

(b) whether the Ministry operates any system of periodical evaluation of performance of each of such offices by way of cost benefit analysis to determine the benefits accruing to the country; and

(c) if so, whether any decision to upgrade, downgrade or totally abolish such embassies etc. has been taken as a result of such evaluation and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFARIS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Expenditure on personnel and other items incurred on Indian Embassies, High Commissions, Consulates and other offices abroad under the budget of Ministry of External Affairs is given below for the last 3 financial years:

Financial Year	Expenditure on personnel (Pay and allowances)	Expenditure on other Heads
		(Rupees in crores)
1993-94	138.49	192.24
1994-95	168.80	241.04
1995-96	202.27	284.60

(b) and (c). The Indian Missions/posts abroad perform a wide range of functions in political, economic, commercial, consular, cultural, information, science and technology and other spheres with a view to safeguarding India's overall national interests. The Foreign Service Inspectors undertake evaluation of these Missions/Posts to assess their performance and functional utility from time to time and recommend measures for improving their efficiency and effectiveness. However, because of the very nature of the functions performed by these Missions/Posts, cost benefit analysis alone would not be an appropriate approach to arrive at conclusions for upgrading/downgrading or closing the Missions/Posts. The Foreign Service Inspectors inspected 52 Missions/Posts during the period 1993-94 to 1995-96 and recommended a variety of measures for personnel and infrastructural upgradations/changes. Keeping in view the ground situation, further strengthening was recommended in 14 Missions/Posts, whereas in an equal number of Missions/Posts, the strength was reduced. Separately, for reasons of economy, Embassies in Malawi, Colombia and Zaire were closed during 1993-94. Mission in Colombia has however,

been reopened. The Consulate General in Karachi was closed during 1994-95 as a result of unilateral decision by the Pakistani Government. Our Embassy in Kabul became temporarily inoperative due to the security situation during 1994-95.

Backlog of Passport Applications

3927. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are taking any action to clear the backlog of applications for Passport as thousands of applicants are waiting for a long time to get the passport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government monitor the performance of Passport Offices on weekly basis with a view to clearing backlog of passport applications. Some of the steps taken in this direction are; (i) close and regular coordination with concerned police authorities in those cases where the backlog has accumulated due to incomplete reports; (ii) sending periodic reminders to applicants to meet the deficiencies in their application forms and to submit additional documents wherever required with a view to clearing backlog on this account; (iii) augmentation of staff strength to reduce and clear pendencies; (iv) upgradation of office facilities including computerisation leading to faster screening and processing of applications; (v) opening of new offices and Collection Centres; (vi) review of systems and procedures in order to avoid delays which result in the creation of backlog; (vii) increasing the size and validity period of the passport; (viii) expansion of list of offiers authorisied to sign Verification Certificates; (ix) regular inspection of Passport Offices by officers of the CPV Division with the specific aim of ensuring clearance of backlog and necessary follow-up action; and (x) setting up of Passport Advisory Committees.

Sainik Samachar

3928. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several ex-officers and Jawans of armed forces are subscribers of Sainik Samachar on regular mailing list;

(b) if so, the number of half yearly, yearly, two yearly and three yearly subscribers of Sainik Samachar separately;

(c) whether several subscribers have gone to the consumer courts for not getting the magazine in time;

(d) if so, how many cases are pending in the consumer courts against Sainik Samachar; and

(e) the expenses incurred by Government so far on these cases since the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)

Half Yearly	-	Nil
Yearly	-	9,000
Two Yearly	-	5,000
Three Yearly	-	6,000

(c) Four subscribers have gone to the consumer courts for not getting the magazine in time.

(d) One case is pending.

(e) Rs. 9,000/- approximately.

Reservation of seats for wards of Delhi University Employees

3929. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi University has decided to set apart a quota of seats in different courses for the wards of the University employees (both teaching and non-teaching);

(b) if so, details of the same and whether the candidates so provided seats will have to satisfy the minimum qualifications for admission;

(c) whether provision similar to above exist in other Central Universities; and

(d) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Anti-Tank Missile Tests

3930. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Anti-Tank missile tests have been conducted in near recent past;

(b) if so, details thereof with objectives;

(c) whether the development of the 'Nag' missile will boost the defence and fire power of our armed forces; and